

29 September 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROFFER FOR  
AND CONSTRUCTION OF A 'GREEN ROAD' AT NSA BETHESDA

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 5090.6A, Policies and Responsibilities for  
Implementation of the National Environmental Policy  
Act within the Department of Navy, dated 26 April 2004  
(b) OPNAVINST 5090.1D Ref (c), Environmental Readiness  
Program Manual, 10 JAN 2014

1. ACTION SPONSER: Naval Support Activity Bethesda

2. Program/Project: N/A

3. REGULATION/REQUIREMENTS:

a. Per reference (a) the subject action has been reviewed  
under Navy procedures for implementing the National  
Environmental Policy Act.

b. Per reference (b), a determination that the proposal  
action may be Categorically Excluded from additional NEPA review  
and documentation has been made based on the evaluation of the  
effect of the proposed action on the human and natural  
environment.

4. DESCRIPTION of PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action is the  
acceptance and construction of a 'Green Road' proffer at NSA  
Bethesda. This path will be located adjacent to Stoney Creek,  
north of the Armed Forces Radiobiological Research Institute  
(AFRRI) and the Uniformed Services University (USU) facilities.  
The ADA accessible path will connect to the existing  
installation paths in the same area. The Green Road will  
include specific landscaping and stream restoration components,  
the construction of commemorative structures, and public  
pavilions and associated facilities. This proffer is intended  
to offer the opportunity to study the impacts of access to  
nature and commemorative spaces on psychological and  
physiological healing for wounded warriors.

5. ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The acceptance and  
construction of the Green Road Proffer is not anticipated to  
have any significant impacts on natural resources, cultural  
resources, storm water, traffic, air quality, noise, solid waste  
generation or hazardous waste generation. This project is  
located outside of the National Naval Medical Center Historic  
District and is not adjacent to known archeological resources on  
campus. The project was submitted to the Maryland Historic

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Trust on August 5, 2014. MHT concurred with the Navy's determination that his project will have No Adverse Effect on installation cultural resources on September 19, 2014. This project is located adjacent to delineated wetlands and a waterway of the State, Stoney Creek. The project has been designed to avoid the wetland areas and the wetland buffer. The project also includes a stream restoration component. The stream restoration work should fall under the Maryland General Permit for section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The proffer will be expected to meet the requirements of a 404 permit on any stream bed disturbance as part of this project. Meeting the requirements of a 404 permit will prevent significant impacts to the installation natural resources. While the restoration may have some temporary impacts to waters of the state, the overall benefit of that restoration work will be a net gain in environmental quality for the installation.

This work is scheduled to take place in an undeveloped portion of the installation. An Erosion and Sediment Control permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment will be required for the laydown area and limits of disturbance. The proffer will be required to install an appropriate storm water management structures or plantings to treat 100% of the storm water runoff from the construction site. The proffer will also be required to maintain appropriate sediment control measures regardless of the size of the project area until at least 85% of the disturbed area has been re-stabilized. Compliance with the E&S permit and the MDE storm water best management practices will prevent significant impacts from storm water runoff and erosion.

This proffer is not expected to have a significant impact on interior or exterior air quality. Short term traffic and noise impacts are expected during construction. These impacts are temporary and are limited to construction noise or increased construction vehicle traffic. These impacts can be mitigated by following the installation policies on time of day restrictions and avoidance of peak travel hours for both construction work and construction deliveries.

No hazardous material generation is expected during this project; however, should asbestos or other hazardous materials be discovered, the proffer shall work with the Public Works Department to ensure proper disposal per regulatory requirements. All non-hazardous construction debris will be disposed of per regulatory requirements, or recycled where possible.

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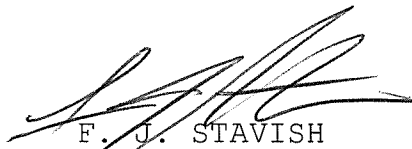
6. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DETERMINATION: In accordance with Executive Order 12898, this action is not anticipated to have disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

7. NO EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES: The following statements are made for the record to clarify that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this proposed action:

a. This project is located outside the NNMC Historic District and is not adjacent to any known archeological sites on the facility. The Navy consulted with the MHT in August 2014. MHT concurred on September 19, 2014 with the Navy's determination that this project would have No Adverse Effect on the cultural resources at NSA Bethesda.

b. After full consideration, this project has been determined not to have, individually or cumulatively, a significant effect on the quality of the human or natural environment under normal circumstances, including public health, security and safety, cultural resources, or that of any endangered or threatened species.

8. DECISION/FINDING: The proposed action has been reviewed and meets the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion per reference (b), see Section 10-3.14 Table 10-6, No.34, "New construction that is similar to existing land use and, when complete, the use or operation of which complies with existing regulatory requirements." This action can be excluded from further documentation under NEPA.



F. J. STAVISH  
Commander, Civil Engineer Corps  
U.S. Navy Public Works Officer

Copy to  
CO, NSA Bethesda

This document does not relieve the proponent of compliance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. If the scope of work is modified, the Project Engineer/Planner must inform PWD Environmental to have the Categorical Exclusion reviewed for accuracy.